

Strautmann Super Vitesse CFS 3101 Wagon



Michael's son Emmet was the tractor man. Both Trevor and Emmet are pictured here at an out farm during the wet July spell in 2012.

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Two friends in Cork show that co operation can work. Trevor Crowley of Hornhill, Lisarda, Co.Cork and Michael Bradfield of Templeglass, Enniskeane, Co. Cork share their Strautman 3101 Super Vitesse CFS Wagon.

This co-operation started a few years ago as neither man had sufficient size alone to justify purchasing a premium wagon on each farm. They bought their first machine, a Strautman Super Vitesse 2 from Lynch and McCarthy in 2006. Their combined work amounts to around 400 acres per year.

Trevor runs around 90 cows and Michael 130 - both plus followers.

They decided to upgrade in 2011 and went ahead and traded in the old machine and took delivery of the Super Vitesse CFS 3101 in Nov 2011 in good time for the 2012 season. The weather in 2012 has been appalling with the season running well behind, due to wet conditions. The two farms are about six miles apart but this distance is not major problem. "Generally it takes just a little planning in advance" says Trevor. "We talk and decide the work days on each farm".

"We look on the Wagon as part of a System. We can pickup what we have ready and get it into the pit safely. We now see every field as a silage field whereas in the past certain fields

were never harvested. We manage both farms, closing off fields in good time and generally plan the cutting and harvesting to suit that overall plan. We now use the Zill cover system which allows us to seal the pit and reopen when the next material is ready". See www.zillnet.de for more information.

"How does the new machine compare with the older model? I asked. Trevor's response was that the pickup was "way better" and it was able to cope with wider or uneven swaths in a smoother way, with fewer lumps. The chop length is now much more uniform as well, both men agree. Some early doubts about the cost of this "up market" and probably slightly "too big" machine were soon put to rest. The machine has the capacity and just as importantly the strength and therefore durability to last many years. "We believe that the build quality is just as important as the price. If the machine lasts five years extra, then a few Euros extra is a good investment."

"How does sharing machines work for you" I asked. "We have been friends for many years now" said Trevor, but both partners need to be "Machinery Men". Both need to be clued into the servicing requirements of the machine and to "know" their machine. "In the six years we have shared wagons, we have spent only a few Euros replacing damaged knives. All other greasing and general maintenance we take care of ourselves as we use the machine".

So far in 2012 we have picked up just about 170 acres, simply due to ground conditions and wet weather.

On the tractor side Trevor uses a TM120 FNH and Michael has a Deere 6630. Both tractors are well capable of handling the Strautman 3101 with ease. Each man uses his own mower to do the cutting in both cases it's a Deere 1360 - Michael's has a swather fitted. They both use an Elho swath conditioner when the crop demands it. It does tend to produce a drier material. On the pit Trevor uses a Manitou 628 whilst Michael favours the Tractor and loader combo on a Deere 6430.

For further information on Strautman wagons, please call:

**I. A. M. Agricultural Machinery Ltd.
Kilkenny. Tel: 00 353 56 7765826
www.iam.ie**



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